

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown,
RI held at the Middletown Town Hall on Monday, January 9, 2012 at
6:00 P.M.**

Council President Arthur S. Weber, Jr., Presiding

Vice President Bruce J. Long

Councillor Richard Cambra

Councillor Christopher T. Semonelli

Councillor Antone C. Viveiros, Members Present

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr., Absent

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas

POSTED – January 3, 2012

Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

Town Hall – 350 East Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Dear Mrs. Marshall:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and act upon the following item of business:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Joint Meeting with School Committee – School Budget related to

1. RIGL § 16-2-21 (1) “The highest elected official of the city or town shall submit to the school committee an estimate, prepared in a manner approved by the department of administration, of projected revenues for the next fiscal year. In the case of the property tax, the projections shall include only changes in the property tax base, not property tax rates”

2. RIGL § 16-2-21 (2) “The school committee shall submit to the city or town council a statement for the next ensuing fiscal year of anticipated total expenditures, projected enrollments with resultant staff and facility requirements, and any necessary or mandated changes in school programs or operations”

3. Matters related to FY2012-FY2013 budget

Said meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

Arthur S. Weber, Jr., President

Middletown Town Council

cc:

Town Council

Public Library

Finance Director

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

School Department

Human Resource Manager

This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

Also present were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance Director Lynne Dible, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay, and Deputy Town Clerk Karin Clancey.

Present, representing the School Department, were Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano, Business Manager Raquel Pellerin, Director of Facilities Edward Collins, School Committee Vice Chair Theresa Spengler, members Kellie DiPalma, Liana Ferreira Fenton and William O'Connell.

Item #2 was addressed at this time.

1. RIGL § 16-2-21 (1) "The highest elected official of the city or town shall submit to the school committee an estimate, prepared in a manner approved by the department of administration, of projected

revenues for the next fiscal year. In the case of the property tax, the projections shall include only changes in the property tax base, not property tax rates”

Council President Weber read the following communication into the record.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive the estimated projected revenues for the next fiscal stated in RIGL § 16-2-21 (1).

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed a handout entitled “FY2013 Pre-Budget Consultation” entered here:

Dennis Turano, 182 Tuckerman Avenue, addressed the Council noting that the Town needs to do more with less. Mr. Turano explained that the School System should be the number one reason why people move to Middletown. He would not like to see higher

taxes and suggests a 10% reduction.

Vice Chair Theresa Spengler left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Councillor Semonelli noted the need to consider school regionalization and being mindful when negotiating Town contracts.

Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger explained that negotiations will be fair.

Item #3 was addressed at this time.

2. RIGL § 16-2-21 (2) “The school committee shall submit to the city or town council a statement for the next ensuing fiscal year of anticipated total expenditures, projected enrollments with resultant staff and facility requirements, and any necessary or mandated

changes in school programs or operations”

Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger addressed the Council reviewing a handout/powerpoint presentation entitled “Budget Discussion FY 2012-2013, entered here:

During the presentation Director of Facilities Edward Collins reviewed the school buildings/maintenance projected staffing. Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano reviewed curriculum/instruction area of the handout. Business Manager Raquel Pellerin reviewed the statement of expenditures within the handout and Budgetary Concerns entered here:

Councillor Cambra left the meeting at 7:00 pm.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive the statement from the school committee for the next ensuing fiscal year of anticipated total expenditures,

projected enrollments with resultant staff and facility requirements, and any necessary or mandated changes in school programs or operations stated in RIGL § 16-2-21 (2).

Item #1 was addressed at this time.

3. Matters related to FY2012-FY2013 budget

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to address any other matters related to FY2012-FY2013 school department budget, which need to be reviewed.

Council President Weber noted that these are difficult times and the need for collaboration. Mr. Weber explained that the Council is interested in holding taxes at a reasonable rate.

Vice President Long explained that Middletown has a well run school system. Mr. Long noted that constituents questioned if the Town and School would be able to consolidate some areas of service.

Councillor Viveiros noted his opposition to regionalizing schools until the current state law is amended. Mr. Viveiros explained that studies show there is no substantial savings to regionalizing schools.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk